

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

To Our Contemporaries.

THE TRIBUNE has now a larger Exchange list than it can afford—embracing at least half the Newspaper Press of the loyal States. We must restrict it. We will hereafter send our Daily to the dailies with which we continue to exchange, our Semi-Weekly to semi-weeklies, and our Weekly to weeklies, which is the best we can do. If any of our present Exchanges should desire to receive THE TRIBUNE more frequently in exchange than this, we will send our Semi-Weekly to weeklies for a difference of \$2 per annum, and our Daily to weeklies for a difference of \$1 per annum. Those papers which receive the Daily in exchange will continue to receive it until the close of the year. After the 1st of January it will be continued only on the terms above mentioned.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE DAILY TRIBUNE.—To prevent any interruption in the receipt of THE TRIBUNE, subscribers are particularly requested just at this time to send the money for renewal of their subscriptions as promptly as possible. Our multi-copies are undergoing a revision which renders it necessary for all expired subscriptions to be paid before the 1st day of January.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The Navy Department has received a communication from Commander Parker, commanding the Potomac fleet, in which he says: "Learning by the Provost-Marshal of Baltimore that the enemy were making a raid on the Bay, I sent the Cor de Leon and Mercury thither on the 14th under command of Acting-Master Morris. They found thirty-one large boats and two scows, all of which were captured. The Home Guard in large force made a show of resistance, but were quickly driven off."

A dispatch from Quebec says that immediately after issuing the proclamation in reference to the Rebel-Canadian raiders, Major-General Glex dispatched a confidential agent to Canada. This gentleman returned to New York satisfied that the Canadian authorities were taking every necessary step to perform international obligations. The best understanding prevails between the Quebec and Washington Governments.

Rear-Admiral Porter's share of the proceeds of captured cotton, blockade-runners, &c., since he assumed command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, is said to amount to \$200,000. Over 35,000 bales of cotton have been captured, worth \$1,500,000. The total value of the captures by his squadron since August last is over \$2,000,000.

Rear-Admiral Farragut was yesterday nominated and unanimously confirmed as Vice-Admiral, under the new law creating the latter rank. The signing of the act of Congress and the nomination of the most-head here were simultaneously done by the President.

A Port Royal paper of the 17th says: "The last lot of Union prisoners were delivered to the Exchange fleet, Tuesday, at Charleston bar. Forty-two of them died as soon as received, and were interred on Morris Island."

We have advices by the transport Fulton from Savannah, the vessel having arrived yesterday morning. Savannah was still in Confederate hands on the 18th, and its surrender had not been demanded by Gen. Sherman up to that time.

It has been decided in the War Department that a veteran can enlist in Hancock's Corps as a substitute for an enrolled man liable to military duty, but cannot receive the special bounty provided for this Corps.

The Adjutant-General of Connecticut, now in town, says that that State is now over 4,000 ahead of the last call for troops, and that it is probable that no draft will be made.

GENERAL NEWS.

While Garret Davis was running a muck on Monday at the Government, in behalf of some imprisoned Kentucky traitors, the conservatism of Senatorial debate was shocked by a woman shouting at him from the gallery. "You are a traitor," she cried. "I would not be quiet," she answered, "that Senator is a traitor; and if you men had the souls of men, he and all other traitors would be firing out of this Congress." That woman was respectfully listened to and not arrested.

The meeting at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, last evening, in behalf of the East Tennessee Fund, was not so largely attended as it would have been if the weather had been more propitious. A stirring and telling speech was delivered by Col. N. G. Taylor, after which resolutions were read by Dr. Vinton, thanking Col. Taylor for his eloquent address, and expressing the sympathy of the citizens of Brooklyn with the long-suffering people of East Tennessee. Admiral Farragut, who had been expected, was not present.

Senator Wilson's West Point bill to appoint two additional cadets from each State, and fifty from meritorious young soldiers in the regular and volunteer service, who have served at least one year, raises the standard of preparation also. The Senator desired to introduce into the bill the system of competition among applicants for appointment, but it was found impracticable.

A private letter from New-Orleans states that there are \$2,000,000 worth of cotton stored in the interior of Mississippi, within the Rebel lines, that has been bought up by operators inside of our lines, in some cases as low as two cents a pound. Transportation at the risk of the speculators.

The case of the Circassian blockade-runner, involving a million dollars worth of property and the most delicate questions of international and prize law, was argued for the captors and the Government on Tuesday in the Supreme Court by Charles Hamer.

The Supreme Court will take a holiday on the Saturday before Christmas and the day succeeding New Year's, and no more. With these interruptions its work will go right on.

The Internal Revenue receipts on Monday were over \$1,500,000. On Saturday last they totaled the high figure of \$1,500,000.

A conflagration at Andover, Mass., yesterday morning, totally destroyed the Phillips Academy; loss about \$30,000, mostly covered by insurance.

Gold opened at 222½, advanced to 224½, and fell to 223½. From this point it rose to 224, and closed at 225. Government stocks are steady, with moderate business. The 10-40s are offered at private sale under the Treasury price. Railway stocks are all lower, and pressed for sale upon a dull market. At the Second Board of the New York Stock Exchange, the market was not made up as early as usual.

The bill to tax whisky \$2 per gallon on and after the 1st of January passed the Senate yesterday by a vote of 22 to 12, with 14 members absent or not voting. The President's signature only is required to make it a law. No Democrat voted for it, and only two pronounced Unionists against it.

The House yesterday passed the \$93,000,000 Deficiency bill, nearly all the money being for the War Department. Most of the session was used up in an acrimonious wrangle on a resolution calling for the War Department's unpublished correspondence in reference to exchange prisoners.

UNION REORGANIZATION.

The hitherto distracted Union party of our City is now in process of reorganization as a unit, under an arrangement made by Messrs. R. F. Andrews and Wm. R. Stewart, on whom the State Committee devolved the task of fusing our hostile factions into one harmonious party. Under the new arrangement, the Union voters of the several Assembly Districts were to be registered yesterday and to-day, preparatory to elections for a new Central Committee; the places of meeting in the several districts being appointed and advertised by the arbitrators aforesaid. So far as the rival factions are concerned, the arrangement would seem a perfectly fair one, and it will doubtless be acquiesced in by the great mass of those who habitually "run the machine" or run with it.

It does not suit us, however, in that representation in Union Nominating Conventions is not to be based on Union votes, as we have so often insisted that it should be. The dance-houses of the IVth and VIIIth Wards, the low grogeries of the VIth and XIVth, and the emigrant-swindling cribs of the Ist, have a perfect right to full representation in a Democratic General Committee, because they contribute zealously and powerfully to swell the Democratic vote at each election; they have no right to be so represented in the Conventions of our party, because (if for no other reason) their keepers are our natural, implacable enemies, and give us no votes. Yet the handful of Unionists living in those Wards are clothed by this arrangement with power, in making the City and County nominations of our party, entirely beyond what justice and equality would warrant. Let us look at the recent vote for President and Governor of the seventeen Assembly Districts respectively, as ascertained by the Official Canvass:

VOTE OF NINE LOWER DISTRICTS.				
District.	Lincoln.	Union.	McDonnell.	Seaton.
I.....	730	729	3517	3278
II.....	512	476	4521	4500
III.....	1657	1623	3371	3573
IV.....	1311	1247	5626	5624
V.....	2817	2758	2994	4087
VI.....	2459	2590	5031	5607
VII.....	3538	3473	3484	2591
VIII.....	1908	1856	5263	5367
XII.....	1931	1901	5801	5974
Total.....	17,378	17,095	41,549	41,375

VOTE OF EIGHT UPPER DISTRICTS.

District.	Lincoln.	Union.	McDonnell.	Seaton.
IX.....	2809	2867	3181	3454
X.....	2567	2631	4103	4121
XI.....	2880	2938	3527	3538
XII.....	2562	2594	4145	4138
XIII.....	2679	2650	4347	4333
XIV.....	2706	2753	4192	4129
XV.....	1841	1918	3577	3570
XVI.....	1276	1277	3569	3465
Total.....	19,255	19,255	39,292	39,087
Aggregate.....	36,633	36,350	73,741	73,462

Here it will be seen that less than a half of the Union voters, residing in the lower Wards, will be entitled, under the new adjustment, to impose candidates for Judges, Sheriff, Clerk, Register, District Attorney, &c., &c., on their brethren in the eight up-town districts, who, to say the least, are no wise their inferiors in intelligence, patriotism, or virtue generally. This is most unjust and unwise. In framing a new rule, it is as easy to make it right as half right. It were far better to have the Unionists organized by Wards, as hitherto, but accord to each a representation based on its Union vote at the last Election—viz.: Each Ward to have one delegate in the Central and in each City or County Nominating Committee, with one more for every three hundred votes, or major fraction of that number polled by it for the first candidate on our ticket at the most recent State Election. This would have supplied the Unionists of each Ward with a special inducement to poll out their full vote at each State Election, and to increase it whenever possible, so as to swell their strength and influence in the next Central and Nominating Committee. Now it is the interest of the omnibus-load who "run the machine" in each of the rotten boroughs to have their tea-party as select and manageable as may be, so that there may be the more plums in their pudding. We thought we had exposed this abuse often enough to secure its complete correction at the first fair opportunity, but it seems that we must try again.

Doubtless the new basis is an improvement on the old, though in one respect it is the contrary. The Assembly Districts are comparatively novel and unfamiliar aggregations; the voters have not "got the hang" of them, however it may be with politicians by trade; so it will be easier for the latter to manipulate and manage them. It seems clear that the basis we suggest would have secured whatever is good in the new organization, while avoiding what is bad.

However, we exhort the Union voters of the several districts to register their names this evening, and take care to be present when the new Central Committee is to be elected. If you merely obtain ocular demonstration of the wire-pulling and underhand contrivances whereby delegations are too often "carried," your evening will be well spent; if you should, by great good luck, be enabled to beat the wire-pullers and choose disinterested, upright, capable persons in their stead, that would be far better. At all events, be sure to get registered and vote, at the next Primary, if only to achieve a right to complain of others' neglect of their political duties in case unfit men should be chosen.

FRANKING.

We presume not less than Forty Millions of pamphlets, tracts and electioneering handbills of various kinds, have been put through the Mails this year free of postage, under the franks of Members of Congress. Thousands of that swindling Copperhead handbill "J. T. Lloyd's Map of the United States," (perverted,) were thus distributed, many of them under the franks of Senator William Wright of New-Jersey and the Hon. A. C. Baldwin of Michigan. A friend sending us one of these nasty cowards, adds, "If you want to pitch into this Member of Congress, for saving some postage for Lloyd, do so." But we don't want anything of the kind. We can't see how one set of gonging the Post-Office under a Member's frank is better or worse than another. The Franking Privilege is the great central abuse around which little abuses grow and fester. So long as it exists, it will be a roost for all manner of unclean birds. Not till Members are required to pay their postage like the rest of us—like the Queen of England and the utterly unpaid Members of Parliament—can

we look for justice, equality or economy in Post-Office management. "Oh, reform it altogether!" says Hamlet.

TRADE AND FINANCE.

We publish in another column a letter from a correspondent commenting upon an article of ours wherein we endeavored to point out a deficiency in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury both of information and of discussion of the essential point in our financial condition. He misapprehends us in supposing that we advocate a suspension of payment in gold of the interest on our Public Debt, and of customs duties. What we did say was that the receipts from customs duties and the payment of gold interest are so nearly equal, that one counterbalances the other, and therefore are of little, if of any, practical effect upon the demand for gold. It is the want of the precious metal for export that keeps up the demand; and, as Mr. Fessenden says, "so long as there remains a large and increasing necessity for its use, and a limited supply, it will command a price commensurate with the necessity and difficulty of obtaining it." Were there no demand for gold there would be no speculation; it is the necessity of paying our foreign debt in gold that creates the demand, and not the payment of duties and the interest on the Public Debt, which equalize each other.

To us, it seems neither just nor expedient to advocate the payment of the interest on the existing Public Debt in currency and not in coin. Such a proposition, if entertained, would have precisely the same effect upon the national credit, and on commercial values, as that made by Mr. Stevens would have had, had it been adopted. It would be a shock to capital—an event always to be avoided, if possible—and would depreciate all our national securities. It would throw back upon us, to be sold for whatever they would bring, all our national securities held abroad. It would create, at once, a new demand for gold among timid capitalists, who would seek such an investment that they might remit their capital abroad for safety. The mere apprehension that Mr. Stevens's proposal might be adopted had, we know, this effect to some degree; and the certainty that such would be the result, should it become a law, was the cause of the rampant speculation in the gold-room that followed his motion. Such tampering with the national credit and with capital, which is as sensitive to any legislative interference as the mercury is to atmospheric changes, can only result in disaster, and can only be justified by extreme circumstances which can in no other way be met. On this point, there seems to have been some misapprehension of Mr. Fessenden's meaning. He does not propose to pay the interest on the present Public Debt in currency, but suggests merely whether, in case of a continuance of the war, we may not, at some future time, be compelled to issue bonds at a higher rate of interest, convertible at maturity into gold-bearing securities. That necessity may be averted by increased taxation or a speedy end of the war. But whether it may, or may not, be wise to resort to such a measure in case we are compelled to increase the Public Debt, is a question we do not now propose to consider.

If, then, it would be unwise to cease the payment of interest in gold on what we now owe, it follows, of course, that it would be equally so to change the present law in regard to duties. What comes from one goes to and is needed for the other. Neither does our correspondent meet the real difficulty in our financial condition, by a proposition to limit by law the amount of imports to the amount of exports. The laws of trade are best not meddled with, and the larger the volume of our commerce the better, with the condition always that we do not over-trade, and buy no more than we can pay for. The real trouble is, not that we import too much, but that we export too little. Our resources, about which there is a good deal of vague talk, are unquestionably enormous; but of what value are they to us unless we can get them to market? Here is the real kernel of our difficulty. The Northern States must pay in gold for all they buy abroad over and above the value of the Pork, Flour, Wheat, Petroleum, Corn, Butter, Cheese, Lard, &c., which they have in foreign hands or on hand for export. If our imports exceed our exports of produce by a certain sum annually, we must pay that difference in specie. If we could export the value of that sum in produce, the demand for just so much gold ceases; and the demand ceasing, speculation would be so far at an end, and gold gravitate to the natural premium which our large paper currency and the export of gold for other purposes necessitate. We have the produce; but the difficulty is to avail ourselves of it. But this is a question which we do not mean now to discuss, as it relates to our system of Internal Improvements.

We do not forget, of course, that in any computation of that foreign indebtedness by which we wish to get at the actual amount of gold which we are annually compelled to send abroad, we must not lose sight of the gold-bearing securities in foreign hands, nor of the large amount which must be remitted to Europe for the support of American absentees. We ought to export enough annually to cover this sum as well as the value of our imports, and until we do the balance of trade will always be against us, and we may look forward, especially in time of war, to future financial disaster.

What is pertinent, however, to our present circumstances, is our actual commercial condition; and on our accurate knowledge of this must depend, to a certain degree, our financial condition, and the probable ruling of the price of gold till the opening of navigation in the Spring. It is facts bearing upon this, and which, it is to be presumed, are in the possession of the Government, that we need to get at to understand our exact situation and to enable us to meet its exigencies. What is the supply of the great staples we have just enumerated? the seaboard? What is the stock in the hands of producers at the West? and what the capacity of the lines of transportation during the Winter months to bring this stock forward? The ability of the many lines of railroad in the West must be tested to the three great trunk

roads, the Erie, the New-York Central, and the Pennsylvania Central; and the volume of transportation which these three can manage is what we must depend upon for our supply for export. Of course, that proportion of produce which they cannot bring must lie over till the opening of navigation in the Spring; though even then there is a limit to the supply, which is largely exceeded by the demand for the foreign market.

It is on a knowledge of these facts that we rely to determine our real condition. They will show how much we may depend upon to pay our foreign debt by exports of produce, and how much must be paid in gold. The immediate effect will be upon the exchange market, for importers will govern themselves accordingly; as it is this practical question which will determine the point of finance in our foreign trade. Teach commercial men the value of our products where they are grown; their value at tide-water; the cost and the volume of transportation, Winter and Summer; and the calculation of the value of our exports is easy, for it is difficult, if not impossible, to over-stock the foreign market. Exchange then will regulate itself, and commerce will not over-step the boundaries beyond which it cannot pass with safety.

MANIFEST MENDACITY.

John Slidell, J. M. Mason and A. Dudley Mann ("we three"), are what are called "Commissioners of the Confederate States of America." They rove about Europe, a kind of vagabond legation, writing notes to various Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which are really addressed to the world in general, and are always published immediately in the newspapers. The Confederate Congress issues a "Manifesto." The Confederate Commissioners send copies of this to all the Cabinets of Europe, and to the Pope of Rome. The attention of Sacred Majesties, and Imperial Majesties, and Majesties in general, is called to what is styled "a frank and full explanation of the attitude and purposes of the Confederate States." Here is "all they ask."

I. "Immunity from interference with their internal peace and prosperity."

II. "Undisturbed enjoyment of their inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

—Give us these, say the Commissioners, and there will be no more bloodshed. This is all we ask! Are we not moderate?

Mr. Cobden, in his recent speech at Rochdale, dwelt forcibly upon the fact that the Rebels have made no explicit declaration of their grievances. "Why," said Mr. Cobden, "is there no such declaration? Because they have but the grievance that they want to consolidate, perpetuate and extend Slavery; and they cannot do it." We do not think that this Manifesto will induce Mr. Cobden to change his opinion that there has been no respectable declaration. Why should it? For the reader who carefully examines it will see that it is all end and no beginning, all effect with no cause, all assertion, or implied wrong, without a shadow of evidence.

"Immunity from interference." The mere demand for this is no evidence of an equitable and still less of a legal right to it. It is simply what is asked for by all wrong-doers. It is the thief's opinion of the law over again. This plea is addressed, indirectly at least, to Louis Napoleon. When some Royalist or Red Republican has ingeniously constructed a diabolical engine against the life of His Majesty, and has sent half-a-dozen bullets whistling through his carriage windows, and has been seized by the constables and locked up, all that the adventurer asks is "immunity from interference." The world, when attempts are made to amuse its judgment or to enlist its sympathies by a sniveling complaint of "coercion," will certainly ask how coercion has become necessary? What the Confederate States should give to mankind is a plain statement of the status quo. With that the horrors of the war have nothing to do. While hostilities are carried on, there will be the inevitable death and destruction—battles will be fought, territory will be over-run, towns will be besieged and bombarded, women and children will be put to personal inconvenience, property-holders will suffer—there is, in short, nothing pleasant about war! It always has been, and it always will be, "interference."

The Confederacy has told the world nothing new. Not the war, but how came the war, is the question. And upon this point, which it will be impossible for foreign nations in making up their judgment to disregard, any right thinking man will perceive at once that there is something which in all manifestoes, documents, declarations, appeals, formal and informal, the Rebels keep sedulously out of sight; and it will be self-evident that this scrupulous reticence is not without a reason. The Rebels do not pretend to argue the case upon its merits, but content themselves with vague hints and unsubstantial innuendoes. Their love of Slavery has suddenly grown more silent as it has grown warmer. Their very reticence upon this vital point is their bitterest condemnation. Their "Commissioners" send to gold and cautious Cabinets whole realms of state and throne-hare platitudes; they appeal to the sympathies, the indignation, the pity, the sheer commiseration of mankind; they show their wounds, they recount their losses, they recite their sufferings—but they say not one word about their Slaves! They leave the whole patriarchal system to take care of itself; they air no ethnological theories in the ante-chambers of this ministry or the other; they studiously ignore the whole previous history of the insurrection; they ask not the aid of their clergymen, once so skilled in making the worse appear the better reason. They only complain that having for some reason, which the world is left to guess, assumed the position of traitors, they are obliged to suffer the penalties of treason. The judicious will be slow to discover the justness of their demand upon the pity of mankind.

"Undisturbed enjoyment of the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." More abstractions! More "glittering generalities!" Life! What slaveholder's life was endangered before the war by any act of the Government? How, except by the reckless prodding of its pro-secessionary by a propensity

for private revenge—by a habit of carrying concealed weapons? Liberty? What liberty? Consistent with public order was denied to the Master? Did he not do as he pleased with what he called his own—did he not murder, maim, flog his serfs at his own sweet will and pleasure? The pursuit of happiness! Did he not pursue happiness in his own way? And who, save himself, is to be blamed if that pursuit, wayward, reckless, undisciplined and passionate, brought him only bitterness, suspicion and failure?

So much for the merits of this great orator, upon which the United States are now, as they always have been, ready to stand before any tribunal which is ready fairly to hear them. Upon these our position is impregnable. What we have to complain of is the shy unwillingness which so many of our foreign critics have manifested to take into fair account the real antecedents of the Rebellion—the points which for so many years were at issue between the Free and Slave States—the gross assumption that this is a war for rational liberty on the part of the insurgents and of indefensible subjugation upon our own. This abstract injustice is greater than any injury merely material which could have been inflicted upon us. We should, indeed, have felt it less had we been what we have been called—a people urged to battle only by pride, the love of power, and blind, unreasoning hatred. We ask only for a fair understanding of our civil war, its original causes, and its conduct up to the present time. We fear no foreign censure, the result of sheer selfishness, and we shall do all in our power to prevent our ill-wishers from pleading ignorance as the excuse of ungenerous treatment.

The Secretary and the Gold Dealers.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Your comments in last Thursday's Tribune are very suggestive, and yet not decisive of the great question, How shall Government be managed to prevent the fluctuations of value produced by the Gold Exchange? I say your remarks are suggestive, because you justly point out Mr. Fessenden's omission; and, after clearly describing the difficulty yourself, close without a practical remedy. As the topic is an open one, permit a humble citizen to make a few suggestions to the public through your columns. To introduce the subject, permit me to make two extracts from your article before referred to. You say:

"The Secretary thinks that the exorbitant price of the precious metals is due very much to speculation, and combinations for that purpose he proposes to punish by law. That we suffer from such speculation is unquestionably true; but, as he justly remarks, 'so long as there remains a large and increasing necessity for its use,' and a limited supply, it will command a price commensurate with the necessity and the difficulty of obtaining it." This necessity arises from the demand for gold to pay duties, the interest on the public debt, and foreign exchange. These are the gold-bearing industries, 'as so far identical that one is dependent on the other.'"

And again: "A prohibition of the exportation of gold is not a panacea that is likely to meet our difficulties, for we must pay our honest debts, at home and abroad, so long as we can. Neither will the issue of more currency, the privilege to do which the Secretary wishes to withhold, be a remedy. That it seems to us, would only aggravate the evil. We want to lower the price of gold, not enhance it."

To my mind, you strike the key-note, when you reply to the Secretary's proposition to punish speculation by penal law, by saying the Government cannot do so effectively while it demands gold for duties, and pays for interest on its bonds. To this fatal discrimination of the Government itself, between one debtor and another, between one commercial transaction and another, are we to attribute all our present monetary troubles. The value of Government bonds does not, and never did, depend upon the specie clause, but upon the amount and efficiency of taxation and revenue. And the specie clause never did, and never will, have more than a moderating influence upon the amount of importations. The discriminations never ought to have been made. The sooner they are abolished the better. How long, then, you will, the more recent leaders to the Government (now, when its credit is comparatively impaired), be satisfied to receive interest in currency, while the early lenders (when the National credit was good), are getting double rates in gold?

Let Congress retire those gold-bearing debts, and place all its creditors on the same platform, if it has to buy up the bonds at the present rates of discount. At all events, the debt, payable in currency, will soon preponderate so immensely in amount over the others as to create a popular interest that will secure the reform, sooner or later. Mark the prediction. Well; the gold-bearing bonds being retired, and the duties made payable in currency, what will be necessary to prevent over-importations, and adverse exchanges, which even now create the demand for gold? There can be but one remedy—prohibitory importation laws. It is just as easy, certainly, to manage the relative imports and exports, as it is to regulate trade as a whole. If the two can be kept at equilibrium, exchange will be nearly at par. A partial embargo, and a revision of our revenue laws, are undoubtedly the remedies for gold-gambling. Let our Government say to England, France and all the world: "We will buy just as much of the products of your labor as you will take of the products of ours—and not a dollar more." Let this be done, and the gambler's "occupation is gone." This recalls to mind a conviction long since entertained, that no protective tariff is worth a straw, for any long period, in a country that has an extensive paper-money system. The currency will sooner or later stimulate extravagance and the importation of foreign luxuries.

You justly say "a prohibition of the exportation of specie is not a panacea for the difficulty"; for, as I may add, if prohibited, it can easily be sent abroad surreptitiously.

But what shall I say of your closing remark: "We want to lower the price of gold, not to enhance it." Permit me to answer this question: We do not care to appreciate or depreciate gold, but during the present national struggle, drive it out of circulation, into the strong boxes, with the diamonds and rubies. The one is of no more use than the others. This was what the British did, during their long war with Napoleon. It was what ninety-nine hundredths of the people of the United States (North and South) have done since July, 1861. Will it be a mere serious thing for the hundredth man to be put in the same category? No country carrying on such a gigantic contest, can have a metallic currency. The thing is impossible. Gold and silver represent labor already performed. Paper is a promise to pay hereafter. Paper money answers to war, which is always a costly investment of blood and treasure (upon credit), in the hope of future returns. It is of no consequence to us, then, if we do not handle hard money for a decade, so long as our labor is kept up, and domestic exchanges are made, in government paper, that symbolizes our abounding wealth and national glory.

If you deem the foregoing observations too radical, crude, or visionary for publication, on your own merits, perhaps their publication might elicit a true remedy for the gold disease from some one else.

A MEMBER OF A DISORDERLY GANG STAYS AN OFFICER.—Late on Tuesday night Officer Cole of the Seventh Precinct ordered a crowd of young men who were in the habit of congregating on the corner of Madison and Market-sts. to disperse. They refused, and the officer in attempting to force them to leave was stabbed by one of the number in the right shoulder, receiving a severe wound. The crowd then fled into the building of the "Rogues' Club," near the corner of Rutgers and Madison sts. None of them have as yet been arrested. The Police of the Seventh Precinct report that the members of this Club are mostly jumpers, thieves, and rogues of all descriptions. They have been in the habit of meeting on Tuesday night, and on the corner, meeting females and beating all who offered any objection to their conduct.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.
WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1864.
THE NORTH TRIAL.

At the opening of the Commission on the trial of Col. North this morning, a motion was made by the counsel for the prisoner, Levi John, for his discharge on the ground that he had requested and obtained an interview with the President of the United States, and had the promise from the President that he would tell all he knew, he would be provisionally discharged; that he had made such a statement, and now demanded his release.

If this was denied he demanded the summoning of the President and an interview. The Judge-Advocate replied that John had written to the President, requesting a personal interview, and promising to make some most important and startling developments. He loved to see him, if released, that the interview had been accorded, and that he had confessed his own innocence; that there could be no doubt that this Commission had no jurisdiction in such cases; that if they pleaded a pardon it must be produced under the seal of the Secretary of State; if it was merely a promise and would prove it would amount to nothing, and this Commission should not lend itself to any such political dodge.

The Commission decided that they could not entertain the plea unless it was on the order of the President of the United States or the Secretary of War. The Judge-Advocate proved several cases where private and officers put Republican votes in the hands of Col. North to be sent home, and when they arrived home they had been changed to Democratic votes.

DANGEROUS PUBLICATIONS.

The greatest anxiety was expressed yesterday and to-day at the Navy Department lest the unparliamentary and most reprehensible publications of details of Gen. Butler's naval and military expedition to capture Wilmington, and his plan to reduce Fort Fisher, should utterly defeat the great enterprise. Within forty-eight hours after the publication, the three papers guilty of the crime were undoubtedly in Richmond, and their news, communicated by telegraph, was in Wilmington. It was said at the Department that the bogus proclamation for which Howard was sent to Fort Lafayette was an innocent folly compared with the treasonable silliness and recklessness of this new paper betrayal of Butler's plans.

OUR PRISONERS.

The temper of the House in respect to the barbarities of the Rebels to our prisoners was expressed in the declaration of Schenck of Ohio, in debate, that who never could be brought to murder captives by starvation something must be done to restrain the barbarism of our foes, and that if nothing else availed he was in favor of trying execution.

THE PAPER DUTY.

The scheme to reduce the duty on paper was confronted, on the instant of its appearance in the House to-day, by the Massachusetts interest, with the countervailing policy of making the raw material cheap, and of letting the present high prices discover new substitutes for rags and perfect new and cheaper processes.

CHARGE DES AFFAIRES AT PARIS.

John Bigelow, consul at Paris, was nominated and confirmed Charge des Affaires until the appointment of a successor to Mr. Dayton. Rumor says the French Mission will next fall to Henry J. Raymond. Rumor also gives it out and out to Montgomery Blair. It is certain that an influential interest is pushing Henry E. Sanford for the place, and is equally certain the Connecticut men in Washington contemplate this pushing with the liveliest dissatisfaction.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1864.

VICE-ADMIRAL FARRAGUT.

The President to-day signed the bill to establish the grade of Vice-Admiral, which is the ranking officer in the Navy, and relatively of the same rank as Lieutenant-General in the Army. Immediately after the President nominated to the Senate Vice-Admiral Farragut for that position, and the Senate immediately confirmed the appointment without the usual formality of referring it to a standing committee. Vice-Admiral Farragut is now in New York, and will be notified by telegraph of this mark of honor conferred upon him. He is expected to visit Washington at an early day.

NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED.

The Senate yesterday confirmed the following nominations: John Bigelow of New-York, now Consul at Paris, to the rank of Major-General; John H. Thompson, Executive Officer of the U. S. steamer Hearsay, to be advanced in his grade to Commander; to take rank next after Lieutenant-Commanding Whiting, for gallant conduct in the action with the Albatross, and the capture of the rebel steamer Hearsay; Lieutenant Egbert Thompson to be Commander also the following Assistant Engineers to be Chief Engineers: Henry Mason, Eben Hoyt, Jr., E. Channing G. B. Tower, R. B. Taylor, James W. Walker, Geo. N. Bright, and Philip H. Smith.